

When Harold says, " I don't like his face—it's so ugly," Paul calls Dan "bad, wretched little thing", Theobald says Christopher is a "dirty, horrid beast", Frank and Priscilla say Penelope is "dirty—a faeces girl—hateful", several of the group say Priscilla is " a cry-baby " and " silly " and Dexter is "stupid", or chant "He won't eat his dinner, he won't eat his dinner," it becomes clear once again that the mechanism of *projection* is at work. The younger or inferior child is being scorned because he represents not only his own weakness and inferiority, but the " bad self " of the hostile one too. The children blame these others for their own most sensitive faults, not yet surely overcome. You don't eat properly." " Oh, yes, we do—it's *you* who don't." " Yes, I do." " You're contradicting—don't contradict." " No, we're *not—you* are." Here we have the situation crystal clear. Each feels the other to be bad, silly, stupid, rude, or dirty—and himself and his friends to be good, sensible, clever, modest and clean. He really *feels* that, as can be seen from face and voice and gesture. It is not a mere "excuse". All the bad things in himself are for the moment seen embodied in the other—and properly frowned upon.

Under cover of this projection of one's own evil on to the other, little children will go far in real unkindness or even cruelty, to the moral victim of the moment. They but exemplify, however, the profound moral aggression of human society as a whole. Human history sets forth an unending tale of burning, maiming, killing, torturing, imprisonment, and all the resources of human ingenuity in devising cruel revenge, under the pressure of this mechanism.

With little children enjoying a mild rule and having sensible standards set for them (as in the best nursery

schools), the
urgent need to hate others openly because of
the faults in
oneself is but transitory and occasional. With
then* growth
in skill and social confidence, and the gradual
lessening of
internal conflict, the tender, protective impulses
of children
towards the younger and inferior ones begin to
gain some
ascendancy.

To these more beneficent attitudes, and to
the general
growth of friendliness and co-operation, we may
now turn,
leaving the further discussion of the element of
projected
guilt in group hostility until a later point.